



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Edna Sater

5 Copies

Fish & Wildlife

For Release to PM's JANUARY 9, 1957

D.O.

OLD JOE INTACT, POLICE CAR DEMOLISHED

Old Joe, the buffalo, is still King of the lonely Alaskan highways.

For the fifth time in recent years, Old Joe has disputed the right-of-way with an automobile and emerged the victor, according to a Fish and Wildlife Service report from Alaska.

Joe's latest antagonist, a Territorial police cruiser, was demolished. As he had in all previous encounters with the machine age, the shaggy beast, who is fast becoming a legendary character in the Far North, snorted defiance at the wreckage and ambled away in the snows.

Other animals, lacking the blocking-back qualities of Old Joe, are hard hit by traffic on Alaskan highways and railroad tracks. The mortality rate among moose is particularly high because of their stubborn refusal to yield the right of way to man, the Service reported.

Winter is a bad time for some game animals in Alaska. The heavy snows drive them to the highways and the tracks of the Alaska Railroad, which offer easy migration routes.

Motorists and railroads take more-than-the-usual care under these conditions, but more-than-the-usual care is often not enough when the moose is stubborn or suddenly shows up too close to the engine or car to be avoided. Carcasses of these animals are utilized even in remote areas, or when they are suitable only for predator control.

To date there is no record that Old Joe, the Bison, has ever tried his prowess against a locomotive. He seems to satisfy his ego by confining his immovable object tactics to automobiles.

X X X